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Wildlife Services Program Safety Review Evaluation of Current Safety Program and Identification of Safety Improvements 7/25/08

Two items are added to the final report of the Wildlife Services Program Safety Review first published in June 2008.

1) Safety Review Coordinator comment: Shortly before this document went to the printer, the ICAP review team leader submitted, via email, the following analysis of WS aviation-related accidents and incidents. This information should be included on page 73 of 342 of the WS Program Safety Review final report.

The following is a summary of the final NTSB factual reports involving the USDA WS aircraft.

There were a total of nine accidents in the period from March 2, 2002, through June 1, 2007. All investigations have been completed and a factual report has been issued for all of the USDA WS accidents listed during the above time frame, with the exception of the most recent fatal accident last year.

The probable causes of each of these accidents break out as follows:

- One accident was caused by improper fuel management and subsequent fuel exhaustion.
- Two of the accidents were attributed to mechanical malfunctions.
- One accident involved loss of control/ground loop during an instructional flight.
- The remaining five accidents (more than 1/2 of all accidents in this reporting period) occurred during low-altitude maneuvering which resulted in either controlled flight into terrain (CFIT) or a stall and subsequent loss-of-control collision with ground. The only fatal accident, and still an open investigation, also involved low-altitude maneuvering. A cause has not yet been determined for this accident, but it would appear to be a CFIT or loss-of-control and subsequent stall accident. Also, one of the accidents in this subgroup, involved an airplane that had flaps deployed and still lost control resulting in a stall.

It would appear that USDA WS would benefit from additional and ongoing CFIT training for all pilots.

2) The following is a correction to the Firearms Safety Review conducted by the National Security Academy.

On page 127 of 342 in the final report of the WS Program Safety Review, the NSA identified "Case 6" as occurring in July of 2008. This event actually occurred in July 2007.